

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY China

SUBJECT Elimination of Aged Civil Servants

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. The Communist Government of Kwangtung Province at Canton adopted divergent standards in its issuance of travel permits to applicants desirous of visiting Macao and Hongkong. Although few questions were asked of student applicants and although there were almost no known cases of denial of permits, considerable care was exercised to make sure of their return to Canton at the end of three or four weeks. As regards applicants over 50 years of age, the government's attitude seemed to be entirely different. Any excuse was accepted and no concern was expressed as to when they would return to Canton.

2. All old people were given their permits almost with a smile, especially people with records of long years of service in the Chinese postal system or the Chinese salt gabelle. Their resignation was invariably accepted to create vacancies for younger people. Among the hundreds of such old civil servants who left China for good in late July 1953 was one who had served in the Chinese postal service for over 40 years.

3. [REDACTED] He would have been retired 25X1X
on pension under the old regime, though he had never been a member of the KMT. As a career man in the postal service, he had received steady promotions and many transfers, occupying the position of postmaster in seven provinces including: Kwangtung, Hunan, Szechuen, Kwangsi, and Kiangsi. When the Communists took over in the winter of 1949-50, he could not be fired because of his long record of loyal service and the great esteem with which he was rated by his subordinates.

4. He was ordered to "stand by" his post and carry on as usual in Kiangsi. [REDACTED] 25X1
he was summoned to party headquarters in Nanchang and was told that now he was one of the bosses of the new China - he was one of the people, and the People's Government belonged to the people, everyone of them except the reactionaries and counter-revolutionaries. Therefore, he was one of the owners of the postal system and not just an employee. Now that the people's money was running low, there had to be a cut in his pay to balance the people's budget.

5. [REDACTED] postal volume declined steadily, though government mail was noticeably increased. To the common people letterwriting was both a luxury and a risk. As postal receipts had dropped to about 40% of the 1949 level, he had received six salary cuts between [REDACTED] Meanwhile, party members were given promotions and several salary increases. As he found it impossible to keep himself alive with his small salary, he asked for a transfer back to Canton, his native district, where he might be able to live with old friends. His request was granted in March 1953 without much delay.

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25X1A

- 2 -

25X1

6. Back in Canton, he retained his old rank as postmaster of a first-class office but found the inequality of remuneration between old civil service men and party youngsters even more glaring and his subordinates even more defiant. He realized his days were over in mainland China and his resignation was accepted. His application for a permit to leave for Hongkong was granted on condition of his solemn written promise not to talk against the People's Government.
7. He arrived in Hongkong in early August 1953 and has remained quiet except when with his closest relatives.

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